

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The seventy-third meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Monday, **November 23, 2015**, at the IDHHC's Office, 528 S. 5th Street, Suite 209, Springfield, IL 62701.

Call to Order:

Amber Smock was appointed to run the meeting in absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chair. Amber Smock called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	No	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes
Haydee Garcia	No	Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes
Anil Phadke	No	Brenda Schmidt	No	Amber Smock	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Public:

Paula Chance	Lori Brennan	Eloise Davies	Dana Craig
Becky Patton	Christina Pean	Ingrid Halvorsen	

Public Comments:

Paula Chance, Deaf Advocate, provided an update on the ISD Superintendent search received from Kris Smith. The deadline for submitting applications was September 30, 2015. DHS is currently contacting candidates and seeking clarification. Beth Purvis, Secretary of Education, Office of the Governor will review the applications. Potential candidates will have the opportunity to visit the campus and meet the community before interviewing.

Lori Brennan reported that the Deaf Fingerspelling Bee would be resuming. Director Miller indicated the information would be shared during his Director's report.

Meeting Minutes:

Joseph Culpepper moved to approve the August 13, 2015, minutes as presented; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Special Report/Presentation:

LEAD-K Campaign (Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf kids – Kindergarten ready)
Dana Craig, Deaf Interpreter and Deaf Advocate

LEAD-K is a national campaign started by Sheri Farinha and Julie Rems Smario in California. California passed SB210 into law which was modeled after the principles of LEAD-K campaign.

The evidence shows that education is not satisfactory for Deaf kids; illustrated by the research by the VL2 within Gallaudet. The focus needs to be on getting kids into kindergarten with language, not waiting to start language acquisition when they are 5 years old. The Education system teaches oralism first and to learn sign language later. However, oral communication skills do not equal language proficiency. ASL and English must be learned together. It is important that the educational programs involve Deaf professionals, families with Deaf children and ASL/English proficient professionals. The LEAD-K establishes language benchmarks and mandatory assessments which will create accountability that the current system is lacking.

The LEAD-K campaign is working in groups of 10 states and focused on public relations, legislation and advocacy. They are doing fundraising and picture campaign. Learn more at www.asl4deafkids.org.

Chair Report:

None

Director's Report:

- Currently, have one Commissioner serving on expired term but an additional 4 Commissioners term expires on November 14, 2015. It is important that IDHHC continues to recruit for new Commissioners or if want to be reappointed, you must apply online at www.appointments.illinois.gov.
- IDHHC presented the soft launch of the new IDHHC website.
- IDHHC met with Governor's Office to discuss the community concerns surrounding the Governance of the Illinois School for the Deaf. IDHHC has been asked not to take a lead but to gather information and keep communication open. IDHHC will continue to keep the Governor's Office informed.
- Commission is clearly short staffed with two vacant positions (Secretary and Interpreter Coordinator). The Commission is working with the Office of Management Budget (OMB) and Central Management Services (CMS) to address these vacant positions.
- IDHHC staff has implemented monthly "Team meetings." It is a very harmonious environment allowing staff to work together on short and long term projects/programs.

- After several months, the Office of the Auditor General has completed the final phase of their site visit for the agency audit review of Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015. At this time, the Auditor General is compiling the final report.
- The plans for a Commission/Staff retreat is in the initial planning stages. However, with the approaching holidays, no budget and scheduling, the plans will not be finalized until the beginning of 2016.
- It has been 5 years since the recommendations of the CART Task Force. Once the state has a budget approved, IDHHC will reconvene the task force to discuss what has been successful or beneficial.
- The Commissioners were provided the online Attorney General Training mandated for the Open Meetings Act.
- The Fiscal Year 2016 Affirmative Action Plan was submitted to the Illinois Department of Human Rights for approval.
- Starting January 1st, IDHHC office hours will change to 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- IDHHC has experienced an increase Freedom of Information Act Requests.
- Currently, the State does not have a budget in place. The Governor has instructed all agencies to continue the daily operations in accordance with Executive Order 15-08. IDHHC is not permitted to process any payments for services/expenditures except payroll transactions per Order of the Courts. The OMB has begun the budget process for fiscal year 2017 (FY 17). The OMB provided guidelines to use in preparing the Commission's FY 17 operating budget request.
- RID suspended testing for interpreters. RID is conducting a risk assessment following the 2 lawsuits filed by Deaf Interpreters seeking to take the NIC with accommodations. The concerns are that the CDI certification identifies a person with a disability. IDHHC has been contacted by other States for information related to the BEI.
- The Director of under the CATIE, Richard Lauren, contacted Director Miller because the Illinois has been one of the most active states in the region with the DSAT training. Brandy Hayes, IDHHC Program Coordinator has been coordinating the training with CILs and DSAT trainers.
- The Illinois Teachers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing contacted IDHHC and indicated that the Deaf Fingerspelling Bee is resuming and will be held April 21, 2016 in Bloomington.
- There have not been any new developments in legislation. IDHHC continues to monitor and ask the community to share if they learn of new legislation. IDHHC provides information to both the legislators and Governor's office on issues impacting the community.
- The Interpreter Licensure Board has Licensure Board has approved Illinois administering the CUED speech test with the TEC Unit. The TEC Unit currently provides the State level certification test in Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia and Utah. Additionally, the Board has recommended IDHHC host an in depth training on based on the Deaf

Curriculum. A new BEI Deaf Interpreter test is being developed and being reviewed by the University of Arizona.

- IDHHC is in the process of revising the Interpreter Complaint Process. IDHHC will present recommendations directly to the Interpreter Licensure Board during open meetings to increase transparency in the process.

Lori Krakora moved for a ten minute break; seconded by Tess Fuller-Sakolsky. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Meeting was recessed at 3:53 p.m. and reconvened at 4:07 p.m.

Cindy Janovetz moved to change the agenda order for Election of Officers from item IX as the next item of business; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Election of Officers:

Chairperson Smock opened the nomination for Chairperson. Nominations for Chairperson include Anil Phadke and Amber Smock. Amber Smock accepted the nomination. Director Miller indicated while Anil Phadke is not present, he expressed an interest in continuing as Chairperson.

Lori Krakora assumed the role of Chairperson for the Elections.

All in favor of Anil Phadke as Chairperson:

Deloris Summers	Yes
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All in favor of Amber Smock as Chairperson:

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes

Amber Smock is elected as Chairperson.

Chairperson Smock resumes the role of Chairperson. Nominations for Vice Chairperson include Susan Dramin-Weiss and Tess Fuller-Sakolsky. Director Miller indicated while Susan Dramin-Weiss is not present, she expressed an interest in continuing as Vice Chairperson

All in favor of Tess Fuller -Sakolsky as Vice Chairperson.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Tess Fuller-Sakolsky is elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Closed Meeting:

Amber Smock moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (21); seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Closed meeting started at 4:25 p.m.

Deloris Summers moved to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Tess Fuller-Sakolsky. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Open Meeting reconvened at 4:49 p.m.

Amber Smock moved to provide the notes from the closed meeting on August 13, 2015, to Tonia R. Bogener, IDHHC Legal Counsel, to develop the formal closed meeting minutes; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Amber Smock moved the need for confidentiality still exists for the closed meeting minutes from previous closed meetings with the exception of the January 17, 2004, minutes related to the search of the new Director; seconded by Deloris Summers. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

New Business:

- February Meeting

Commissioners indicate they have received comments from the community that there is never meetings outside of Springfield. The SWOBDA Deaf Center in Chicago is available for meeting and workshops.

Lori Krakora moved to relocate the February meeting determined by the Commissioners availability to the SWOBDA Deaf Center; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Abstained
Laura Thomas	Yes				

- ISD Governance

There have been presentations made to the community in both Chicago and Jacksonville on the issue future legislation involving ISD Governance. Commissioners expressed in interest in having such a presentation. Director Miller agreed to see if presentation could be arranged for the February meeting.

- Open Meeting Act (OMA) Training

It was suggested that additional training be provided to the Commissioners. It was discussed that OMA training was provided during the last Commission retreat by the Attorney General's Office, required online training, and during the Commissioner Orientation Training. It was suggest that Commissioners submit questions regarding the OMA to Tonia R. Bogener, IDHHC Legal Counsel and OMA Designee, to help determine future training needs.

Deloris Summers moved for IDHHC to make available additional OMA training; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Abstained
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Amber Smock moved to table the remaining items on the agenda until the next Commission meeting; seconded by Tess Fuller-Sakolsky. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

Adjournment:

Deloris Summers moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m.; seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes	Deloris Summers	Yes
Laura Thomas	Yes				

(Signature in file)
Chairperson _____ Date _____

(Signature in file)
IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee _____ Date _____